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time existed in the French in common with the other Romance idioms, and which have disappeared from the former for some local or other reason, but still live as legitimate types in the latter. Notwithstanding these minor drawbacks, however, we have in this work the greatest step ever taken as yet towards building up a general Old French syntax.

A. M. E.

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Beowulf: an Anglo-Saxon Poem, and The Fight at Finnsburg. Translated by JAMES M. GARNETT. With facsimile of the Unique Manuscript in the British Museum, Cotton. Vitellius A XV. Boston: Ginn, Heath & Co. 1882.

Wülcker's remark in *Anglia* (Anzeiger zu Band IV): Eine vollständige Übertragung des Beowulf ist meines Wissens in Amerika nicht erschienen, is now no longer true; for here is not only a complete translation, but a good one, the best that has yet appeared indeed for perplexed students who hold text in one hand and translation in the other for purposes of comparison. The translation is based on Grein's separate text (1867), with notes that add renderings of the variations in the text of Heyne's fourth ed. (1879). The translator has used Grein's and Heyne's Glossaries, and retains Grein's divisions of the poem, adding headings that recall the contents of each division. He has studiously abstained from consulting the existing English translations. A Preface, explanatory of the growth of the translation as originally a piece of class-work intended to aid his post-graduate students; an Introduction setting forth (1) the contents of the poem, (2) its date, (3) the scene, (4) the names of the tribes represented in the poem, (5) the life of the time, (6) the composition and (7) metre, (8) a bibliography; a glossary of proper names, and a list of Old English words used in the translation, are added by the translator.

The Bibliography is an exceedingly valuable feature and far exceeds Wülcker's and Botkine's in completeness. That it is not exhaustive may be seen from the following list of miscellaneous omissions, added here for the benefit of other collectors of Beowulf literature: Outzen's Ueber das A. S. Beowulf (Kieler Blätter, 1816); Sweet, Englische Studien, II 313; Ettmüller's Geschichte der deutschen Literatur, mit eingeschlossen der Angelsächsischen; Ebeling's A. S. Lesebuch (Leipzig, 1847); Thorpe's Rask (1879); Arend's Proeve eener Geschiedenis der dichtkunst en fraaije letteren onder der Angelsaksen (Amsterdam, 1842); Skeat's Guest's English Rhythms; Der Genetiv im Beowulf, von Dr. E. Nader (1882); Die Synonyma im Beowulffiede, mit Rücksicht auf Composition und Poetik des Gedichtes, von K. Schemann (1882?); W. Taylor's Historic Survey of German Poetry, interspersed with various Translations, 3 vols. (London, 1830); Sievers's Kleine Bemerkungen und Fragen zum Beowulf, in Paul und Braune's Beiträge, IX, pp. 135-44; Longfellow's Poets and Poetry of Europe (new ed. 1871);<sup>1</sup> Wright's Biographia Britannica Literaria, and Celt, Roman, and Saxon (for references to armor, etc.); Kemble's Saxons in England (for discussion of political institutions, the germs

<sup>1</sup> The reviewer is indebted to Mr. Bright, Fellow of the Johns Hopkins University, for the three last notes. Several of the essays indicated have appeared since Dr. Garnett's translation.

of which K. discerns in Beówulf); Edinburgh Review for Oct. 1845; W. Wagner's *Deutsche Heldensagen*, Leipzig, 1881. General references and discussions that elucidate particular points may be found in Weinhold's *Alt-nordisches Leben*, Wackerbarth's *Music and the Anglo-Saxons*, Bouterwek's *Caedmon*, Lappenberg's *History of the Anglo-Saxons*. It may be well too to mention Gräter's *Suhm's History of Denmark*, Baldwin's recent work on *English Literature*, Hammerich's *De episk-kristelige old-kvad hos de Gotiske folk* (Copenhagen, 1873), W. Grimm's *Die deutsche Heldensage*. The reference *sub* Lumsden, "Academy, Vol. XVIII," should be Academy, Vol. XIX; and read, in the next line, "by Wülcker in Anglia, *Anzeiger*, IV, 69."<sup>1</sup> It has not been possible for the reviewer to make exact references in every case, the volumes in question not being always at hand. Doubtless Dr. Garnett has many of them already on hand for a future edition.

The peculiar feature of this translation is its line-for-line literalness, with alliteration as an occasional grace. Undoubtedly such a theory must result in much distressing involution of phrase, which the translator has foreseen and done his best to overcome. As a translation for popular reading it fails precisely in this point. To the Anglo-Saxon scholar the involutions are quite intelligible, for he has grappled with them from the beginning of his studies in Anglo-Saxon poetry; but to the general reader they are obscure and tormenting enough. In so far then as the translation is an exact and faithful reproduction of the original addressed to students, it is a success; but in so far as it is intended to popularize a most difficult poem, it cannot be called such. It cannot be said, moreover, that the new version is perfectly free from those *Unwörter* with which Ettmüller's alliterative version was reproached; or from monotony, as the perpetual recurrence of such words as "victorious," "jewel," "treasure" (translating A. S. words in which a subtler insight would have perceived picturesque shades of meaning); or from inexactness here and there in the translation of particles (ll. 369, 182, *háru* omitted; l. 735, *pá gen*, rather = "any longer" than "not yet"; l. 862, "now" for "nevertheless"; l. 1353, "unless" for "except"), or from neglect of certain points, as of the duals in several important passages (ll. 1707, 1783).

In other passages the translation is a distinct advance on Heyne's text, and throws light on obscure points, as ll. 1143-4, 1213-14, 2051, 2860-1. Ll. 2522-3 and 3117 take a liberty with the text (no notes explaining the variations). Umbrage might be taken at what appear to be verbal slips or inaccuracies, as l. 1861, "swan's bath" for "gannet's bath"; l. 236, "weighty words" for "words"; l. 293, "horse-thanes" for "kindred-thanes," "comrades"; l. 307, "went" for "went down"; l. 435, "renounce" for "scorn"; l. 498, "band" for "joy" (see Toller-Bosworth, 218, for numerous references, though this one is omitted); l. 1043, "of" for "over"; l. 1175, "would" for "wouldst"; l. 1191, "by" for "'twixt"; l. 1285: query: can *heoru bunden* mean "twisted sword"?; l. 1537, "cared she not for the contest" for "cared he," "shrank he," etc.?; l. 1616, "twisted" for "drawn"?; l. 1736, "sorrow" for "remorse"?; l. 1793, "pleased to rest" for "longed sorely to rest"?; l. 1943, "any dear man" for "leman"?; l. 1980, "with mighty words" for "with formal or courteous words"?; l. 2029, why "courtier"? In our opinion *oft* here belongs to *gesette*; *nó* is wrong, and the trans-

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Bright.

lation is "seldom after a leader's fall rests the death-spear [even] a little while"; l. 2145, "by" should be omitted; l. 2175, "saddle-bright" for "bright-saddled"?; l. 2299, "at times" is omitted; l. 2449, "with" for "through," "on account of"; l. 2576, "fearful" for "grisly-hued"; l. 2577, *inçe lāfe* seems to mean "with the edge of the sword," not "with the *mighty* relic"; l. 2640, "thought of honors for us" for "exhorted us to deeds of glory"; l. 2750, "on account of" for "after seeing"; l. 2820, the ambiguous "doom of the saints" for "realm of the saints." Quotation marks have been omitted l. 687. Many of these corrections would naturally spoil the rhythm which, though rugged, is based throughout upon the consistent introduction of two accented words to each hemistich; but the translation would gain in accuracy.

In judging a work of this nature, however, one may easily be led to be over-censorious. The difficulty and corrupt state of the text must be kept carefully in view; the inadequacy of the lexical helps to a thorough study of Anglo-Saxon is another point to be remembered; and the still very imperfectly understood canons of A. S. poetic syntax may well admit a variety of translations in passages that seem at first perfectly clear. Dr. Garnett is modest in everything that he advances. Though his translation cannot be called poetry as, in some senses, the translations of Simrock, Heyne, Wackerbarth, Conybeare (partial) and Lumsden may be, it is rhythmical and vigorous, now and then felicitous in single epithets, now and then dramatic when it grapples with the memorable episodes. It is worthy of extended notice; it deserves, as it has received, the approbation of Prof. Child and Henry Sweet; and it need not fear the criticisms of church-mice or of academicians in a corner.

J. A. H.

Babrius. Edited with Introductory Dissertations, Critical Notes, Commentary and Lexicon. By W. GUNION RUTHERFORD, A. M., of Balliol College, Oxford. London: Macmillan & Co. 1883.

One of Mr. Rutherford's English reviewers, in a highly commendatory notice of the *New Phrynichus*, says that Mr. Rutherford 'has quite succeeded in catching the amusing though somewhat aggressive dogmatism of style of Cobet and the best critics.' It is much to be feared that praise like this has encouraged Mr. Rutherford in his *παρηγοία*, for his edition of Babrius is studded with depreciatory remarks which will certainly earn for the editor the close, if not malevolent attention of sundry Greek scholars. It is not pleasant to be told that one 'fails rather from want of knowledge and judgment than of native acuteness' (p. 4 *a*), that 'the abundance of [one's] work has given [one's] name a predominance to which, if linguistic tact and careful scholarship are of value, it has little right' (p. 72 *b*), that one 'has flaunted his ignorance in our face' (p. 92 *b*), that one shows 'his usual absence of appreciation of the history of the Greek language' (p. 109 *b*), that a certain form is 'a paltry shift, although it has been accepted by Liddell and Scott' (p. 121 *a*), that one's 'incapacity in making conjectures is only equalled by one's boldness' (p. 125 *b*), while 'my own proposal is hardly a conjecture; it is a correction.' This is only a rapid gleaning of passages that have caught my eye in turning over the pages, and there are more of the same order. This is not so bad as German